

Application No. 10/766,675

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for processing by a data processing system, said data comprising:

a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document information during its entire lifetime, comprising:

an object conveying document information,

processing information, and

metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information;

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and

wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed.

2. (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

3. (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

4. (Original) The meta-document of claim 1, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

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5. (Currently Amended) The meta-document of claim 1, ~~further comprising anywherein the application program, is embedded on the object, responsive to execution by the data processing system, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.~~

6. (Currently Amended) In a data processing system, a computer-implemented method of managing a meta-document comprising:

storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information;

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and

wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed;

transmitting the meta-document to a source;

parsing the meta-document, at the source, for extracting stored processing information and metadata; and

storing processing information pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source and associated metadata on the meta-document.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the meta-document further comprises a tool, embedded on the object, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and

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storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the tool.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the source comprises a tool, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the tool.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the meta-document further comprises a second tool, embedded on the object, for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the source further comprises a second tool for parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of:

parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and

distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for managing document information comprising:

a memory storing a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document on a computer-readable storage medium, the meta-document, wherein the meta-document comprises an object conveying document information, processing information pertaining to processing of the meta-document, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information; wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the

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application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the processing information being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed; and wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by ~~an~~ the application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the metadata being stored on the meta-document each time the meta-document is processed;

a processor for executing an application program for processing the meta-document; and

a plurality of sources, each source located at a different location,

wherein each time the meta-document is received by a source, processing information and its associated metadata is parsed and extracted from the meta-document at the source; and

processing information pertaining to transmitting the meta-document to the source and parsing at the source and associated metadata stored on the meta-document.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein processing information comprises information pertaining to transformation of the document information.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises a user comment to the document information.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the processing information comprises information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the meta-document further comprises a tool, embedded on the object, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein a source further comprises a tool, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document.